

Former Secretaries of State for CAFTA

June 6, 2005

Colin L. Powell

Warren M. Christopher

Lawrence S. Eagleburger

James A. Baker III

George P. Shultz

Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

Henry A. Kissinger

Dear Congressman:

We are writing to urge your support for swift approval of the U.S.-Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement.

Twenty years ago, Central America was mired in conflict and bloodshed. Today, this region is at peace. Elected leaders are embracing political and economic reform, fighting corruption, and strengthening the rule of law. A stable, democratic and growing Central America and Caribbean Basin not only helps the peoples of a region too long steeped in poverty and violence, but it also strengthens the United States economically and provides greater security for our citizens. DR-CAFTA represents a unique opportunity for the United States to support this impressive transformation.

Approval of this accord makes sound economic and policy sense for the U.S. With 45 million consumers, the six signatories comprise the second-largest market for U.S. goods in Latin America following Mexico. By requiring members to actively enforce existing legislation, DR-CAFTA will help these countries strengthen labor standards and environmental management.

These nations are strategic partners in America's efforts to curb illegal immigration, eradicate drugs, and combat terrorism. It is in the best interest of the U.S. to have politically strong, economically healthy, and socially free partners to help achieve these goals. DR-CAFTA will significantly enhance the prosperity and stability of the region, and in so doing will make a more secure United States of America.

We the undersigned therefore urge you to give your full support to the Dominican Republic – Central America Free Trade Agreement.

Sincerely,

Former Secretaries of State for CAFTA



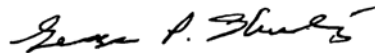
Colin L. Powell



Lawrence S. Eagleburger



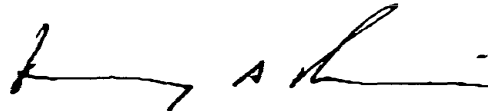
Warren M. Christopher



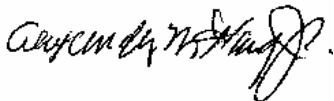
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